

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATOR (NWCO) PERMIT  
APPLICATION**

This application consists of a 75-question test. The test questions relate to wildlife biology and behavior, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) rules and regulations, prevention and control of wildlife damage and general wildlife knowledge questions. You must receive a minimum score of 80% correct to qualify for the permit.

Recommended resources:

- 1) Current LDWF hunting and trapping regulations <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/publications/>
- 2) LDWF rules and regulations for NWCO's (Title 76-included at the end of application)
- 3) The 2000 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia  
[http://www.avma.org/issues/animal\\_welfare/euthanasia.pdf](http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf)
- 4) Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage Handbook published by the University of Nebraska  
[www.icwdm.org](http://www.icwdm.org).

Return the completed application form, test and signed release statement. The test will be scored as soon as possible. If a passing score is achieved, a background check will be conducted on the applicant. If the applicant passes the background check, a permit will be issued and the permittee must abide by the rules and regulations or face possible enforcement action including citations and loss of their permit.

For additional information contact Emile P. LeBlanc DMAP Coordinator (225)765-2344 or via email at [eleblanc@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:eleblanc@wlf.louisiana.gov)

APPLICATION FOR NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATOR (NWCO) PERMIT

\*\*\*Providing false information will result in denial of permit\*\*\*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: H( ) W( ) Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

DRIVERS LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

LOUISIANA TRAPPING LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES WILLING TO WORK WITH \_\_\_\_\_

PARISHES WILLING TO WORK IN \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return To:

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES**  
**WILDLIFE DIVISION**  
**ATTN: Emile P. LeBlanc**  
**P.O. BOX 98000**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA 70898-9000**  
**(225) 765-2344/FAX (225) 763-5456**

**Be sure to return the signed release statement and the test.**

## NWCO PERMIT APPLICATION RELEASE STATEMENT

This statement must be signed and returned with the application before a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator Permit can be issued.

**“I have been advised and do understand that by applying for and accepting a permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity which would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all State and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations, and all State and Federal laws and regulations which relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, canceled or revoked at any time by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. I agree to immediately surrender the permit issued to me upon demand made upon me by any authorized employee of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. I understand that my failure to fully and completely comply with the laws, regulations, terms, and conditions referred to herein could result in the immediate suspension, cancellation or revocation of this and other permits issued to me by the Department and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my actions. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege which is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate fully and completely with the Department or its employees can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein.”**

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Signature

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Date

## NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATOR EXAM

### MULTIPLE CHOICE – CHOOSE THE ONE BEST ANSWER

1) Which of the following is NOT an approved method of euthanasia for raccoons according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)?

- a. drowning
- b. gunshot
- c. penetrating captive bolt
- d. CO<sub>2</sub> chamber

2) Annual reports of nuisance wildlife control activities shall be submitted \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. on the expiration date of the permit
- b. within 30 days of the expiration date of the permit
- c. every six months
- d. no later than 10 days after the expiration date of the permit

3) You receive a call from a person who is concerned that the high numbers of bobcats in an area are reducing the rabbit population. It is early summertime and they want to get rid of as many bobcats as possible before rabbit season. The best solution by the NWCO to this problem would be:

- a. capture as many bobcats as you can in live traps and relocate them, and then start using snares.
- b. explain to the person that you cannot provide that type of service because this does not constitute a valid nuisance wildlife complaint
- c. apply for a special night-shooting permit for bobcats and begin hunting them at night.
- d. advise the landowner that he should put out poison for the bobcats by injecting dead chickens with rat poison and placing them in areas where bobcats are seen.

4) Which of the following MAY NOT be taken under the authority of a NWCO permit?

- a. big brown bat
- b. red fox
- c. Rock doves
- d. woodpeckers

5) Which of the following methods are legal for taking coyotes?

- a. leghold traps
- b. snares
- c. daylight shooting
- d. All of the above

- 6) A permitted NWCO may use poison to control wildlife if:
- a. he/she possesses a commercial pesticide applicators license and the chemical is registered for use against the target species
  - b. he/she has verbal authorization from a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologist
  - c. the animal is inside a human dwelling
  - d. the poison is registered for use on agricultural crops
- 7) The most common species of venomous snakes in Louisiana are the:
- a. green snake and king snake
  - b. ground rattler and canebrake rattlesnake
  - c. coral snake and bull snake
  - d. cottonmouth and copperhead
- 8) Before shooting, under the conditions of the NWCO permit, the NWCO must
- a. attach a silencer to the weapon
  - b. abide by all state and municipal firearms restrictions
  - c. wait until nightfall
  - d. use steel shot only
- 9) A potential client calls about raccoons and opossums that have been getting into their garbage cans. Which one of the following offers the best long term solution to the problem?
- a. capture the animals in live traps and relocate them
  - b. recommend preventative measures to keep animals from accessing garbage
  - c. place ammonia-soaked rags in each of the garbage cans
  - d. capture the animals in live traps and euthanize them
- 10). How many assistants can you designate to operate under your NWCO permit?
- a. none
  - b. one
  - c. two
  - d. unlimited
- 11) Which of the following method is useful in preventing woodpecker damage to wood siding?
- a. hanging netting over the affected area
  - b. using visual or auditory frightening methods
  - c. applying a sticky repellent to the affected area
  - d. all of the above

12). You capture a raccoon and determine it has a litter of young inside a wall or attic. Upon investigating, you find that its kits still have their eyes closed, but you can't reach them. The client doesn't want you to cut any holes in the wall to get them out. Which of the following offers the best alternative?

- a. pour 1-2 cups of ammonia down the opening, then release the mother so that she'll move the young when it gets dark in 6-8 hours.
- b. place the live trap (with the female still in it) close to the opening so that the young hear her and come out when they get hungry
- c. place solid deodorizer blocks in the opening and then seal it up
- d. release the mother at the site and check the next morning to see if the disturbance caused her to move her young during the night

13) Which of the following species of venomous snake is native to Louisiana?

- a. Western diamondback rattlesnake
- b. Eastern diamondback rattlesnake
- c. Sidewinder rattlesnake
- d. Diamondback water snake

14) Which of the following birds can be legally killed in Louisiana without any special permits?

- a. egrets
- b. rock doves
- c. chicken hawks
- d. all of the above

15) NWCO's may control nuisance alligators \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. if the alligator is less than 4 feet long
- b. if the alligator is released alive
- c. always
- d. never

16) Wolves pose a particularly difficult problem for the NWCO because\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. they are too big for live traps
- b. they rarely leave enough evidence behind to identify
- c. there are no wild wolves in Louisiana
- d. they are extremely dangerous to approach when caught in a trap

17) NWCO's may keep which parts of animals taken under the authority of the NWCO permit?

- a. skins
- b. skulls
- c. teeth
- d. none

- 18) Traps must be checked and all animals removed a minimum of once every \_\_\_\_\_ hours.
- a. 12
  - b. 24
  - c. 36
  - d. 48
- 19) \_\_\_\_\_ is NOT an authorized method of capture.
- a. padded leghold trap
  - b. steel jaw leghold trap
  - c. toothed leghold trap
  - d. snare
- 20) All traps and other capture devices shall be set in a manner that
- a. is out of the view of the general public.
  - b. will maximize the risk to non-target animals.
  - c. is approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
  - d. is securely attached to a stake driven into the ground.
- 21) A homeowner calls and complains that something has killed several of his chickens but doesn't know what. When you arrive to investigate, you find the dead chickens in the pen neatly stacked in a pile. Immediately you suspect the predator is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. raccoon
  - b. opossum
  - c. fox
  - d. mink
- 22) The most versatile control tool for coyotes are size \_\_\_\_\_ leghold traps.
- a. one and two
  - b. two and three
  - c. three and four
  - d. four and five
- 23) Removing brush piles and weed patches to control rabbits is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. landscape management
  - b. habitat modification
  - c. indirect control
  - d. population manipulation

24) When presented with an abundance of food, \_\_\_\_ may kill more animals than they can eat.

- a. snakes
- b. opossums
- c. hawks
- d. mink

25) The use of \_\_\_\_\_ in most situations where beavers are causing damage is the most effective, practical and environmentally safe method of control.

- a. firearms
- b. traps
- c. repellants
- d. trained dogs

26) Bats in Louisiana can be grouped into what category?

- a. fruit bats
- b. insectivorous bats
- c. vampire bats
- d. house bats

27) A beaver colony usually consists of \_\_\_\_\_ related beavers

- a. 4 to 8
- b. 0 to 20
- c. 1 to 5
- d. more than 20

28) \_\_\_\_\_ can be used to prevent birds from roosting in the rafters of buildings.

- a. ladders
- b. high frequency sounds
- c. netting
- d. roach bombs

29) \_\_\_\_\_ are responsible for most raptor depredation problems.

- a. chicken hawks
- b. Great Horned owls
- c. Red-tailed hawks
- d. Falcons

30) Characteristic signs of \_\_\_\_\_ activity are shallow holes 1-3 inches deep and 3-5 inches wide.

- a. snake
- b. coyote
- c. weasel
- d. armadillo



31) You respond to a complaint from a landowner who has had some adult turkeys killed. You find a turkey carcass hidden under a pile of leaves and soil. What animal would you suspect is responsible?

- a. coyote
- b. fox
- c. Great Horned owl
- d. bobcat

32) \_\_\_\_\_ often kill calves by eating into the anus or abdominal area.

- a. coyotes
- b. bobcats
- c. hawks
- d. foxes

33) A Conibear® type, # 330 is one of the most effective types of body-gripping trap to catch

- a. snakes
- b. mink
- c. beavers
- d. coyotes

34) A toxic perch is

- a. a perforated metal tube containing a wick saturated with a contact toxicant
- b. a fish dipped in poison used to kill nuisance otter and mink
- c. a perforated metal tube containing a sticky repellent
- d. a bird roosting area contaminated by histoplasmosis spores

35) A homeowner calls and complains that something is killing his chickens but doesn't know what. When you arrive to investigate, you find a chicken pen that is in a state of disrepair and has several places where a predator may enter the pen. The best solution to this problem is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Advise the owner to repair the pen to prevent any predators from entering.
- b. Place a handful of mothballs at the holes in the pen to discourage predators.
- c. Try to identify the predator and set an appropriate trap to remove the animal.
- d. Block the holes in the pen with boards or bricks.

36) Foxes may cause serious problems for \_\_\_\_\_ producers.

- a. blueberry
- b. crawfish
- c. poultry
- d. all of the above

37) To prevent mink from entering fenced livestock enclosures, seal all openings larger than\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 1 foot
- b. 1 inch
- c. 1 centimeter
- d. 1 millimeter

38) Poultry killed by \_\_\_\_\_ usually have bloody puncture wounds in the back and breast.

- a. skunks
- b. opossums
- c. raccoons
- d. raptors

39) Recommended baits for live-trapping nutria are\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. crawfish
- b. small chunks of raw beef
- c. sweet potatoes
- d. oranges

40) A charged trip wire placed 6-8 inches above the ground and 8-10 inches outside a fence is often effective in preventing \_\_\_\_\_ from digging and crawling under.

- a. coyotes
- b. minks
- c. snakes
- d. armadillos

### **TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS**

41. Wildlife may be released on State-owned lands without obtaining written permission.

- a. true
- b. false

42. There are no repellents registered to discourage rabbits.

- a. true
- b. false

43. You must submit an annual report of your activities related to nuisance wildlife control.

- a. true
- b. false

44. Beavers may be taken with firearms during daylight hours.

- a. true
- b. false

45. Although their dams flood timber and agricultural fields, the ponds created by beavers often provide good habitat for wood ducks.

- a. true
- b. false

46. Tree seedlings can be protected from nutria and beaver by placing hardware cloth tubes around their trunks.

- a. true
- b. false

47. Squirrels usually have two litters of young per year, one in early spring and one in late summer.

- a. true
- b. false

48. The NWCO permit authorizes the trapping and relocating of raptors.

- a. true
- b. false

49. Otters feed primarily on aquatic vegetation.

- a. true
- b. false

50. Pit vipers have round eye pupils.

- a. true
- b. false

51. Rock dove is another name for a pigeon.

- a. true
- b. false

52. Black panthers are common in Louisiana.

- a. true
- b. false

53. NWCO permits allow the use of spotlights and firearms to control nuisance beavers and coyotes.

- a. true
- b. false

54. NWCO's may sell nuisance animals trapped alive.

- a. true
- b. false

55. Trapped animals must be released within 24 hours.

- a. true
- b. false

56. Armadillos are herbivores.

- a. true
- b. false

57. Vultures are unprotected birds and may be taken year-round.

- a. true
- b. false

58. NWCO's may take injured or orphaned wildlife home to rehabilitate the animal before releasing.

- a. true
- b. false

59. It is legal to keep wild raccoons as pets in Louisiana.

- a. true
- b. false

60. Rat poison can be used to kill squirrels if they are inside an attic.

- a. true
- b. false

61. Herons and egrets are often mistakenly referred to as cranes.

- a. true
- b. false

62. The shed skin of a pit viper is easily distinguished from that of a non-venomous snake.

- a. true
- b. false

63. Instead of laying eggs, water moccasins give birth to live young.

- a. true
- b. false

64. Trapping is usually the best method of controlling raccoon damage.

- a. true
- b. false

65. Opossums are marsupials and the females carry their young in a pouch.

- a. true
- b. false

66. Rabbits are rodents.

- a. true
- b. false

67. Turtles are common predators on ducklings in ponds.

- a. true
- b. false

68. A litter of armadillos may vary from 2 to 8 young.

- a. true
- b. false

69. Canebrake rattlesnake and Timber rattlesnake are different names for the same snake.

- a. true
- b. false

70. Snakes commonly referred to as ground rattlers are not rattlesnakes at all.

- a. true
- b. false

71. When live trapping and relocating animals in the spring and early summer, care must be taken to avoid orphaning young animals that may be in a nest or den.

- a. true
- b. false

72. Commercially available snake repellants are highly effective.

- a. true
- b. false

73. Traps must be marked with permanent tags bearing the name and address of the NWCO.

- a. true
- b. false

74. In addition to the NWCO permit, other State and Federal permits are required to take protected birds.

- a. true
- b. false

75. House sparrow and English sparrow are two names for the same bird.

- a. true
- b. false

## **Title 76**

### **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

#### **PART V. WILD QUADRUPEDS AND WILD BIRDS**

##### **Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds**

##### **§ 127. Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator Program**

###### **A. Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Section is to establish guidelines for the permitting of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCO's) and the procedures to be used by the NWCO's in controlling nuisance wildlife.

2. NWCO's are defined as individuals who offer their services for commercial control of nuisance wild mammals.

###### **B. Permit Requirements**

1. The applicant must achieve a minimum score of 80 percent on the NWCO examination. The examination shall consist of 75 questions relating to wildlife biology and behavior, nuisance animal control methods and procedures and nuisance wildlife control laws, rules and regulations.

2. Anyone who has been convicted of a Class II or greater wildlife violation in Louisiana, or the equivalent in another state within the past three (3) years, or has been convicted of a felony in Louisiana or another state, shall not be eligible for a NWCO permit. Also, any person who's hunting or trapping license privileges are revoked and is not legally able to purchase a trapping or hunting license shall not be allowed to possess or operate under the authority of a NWCO permit.

3. The NWCO Permit is not valid unless it is accompanied by a valid Louisiana Trapping license and a valid Louisiana Basic hunting license, all three of which must be carried at all times while conducting NWCO activities.

### C. Exemptions

1. Employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (“the Department”) the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services are exempt from all NWCO permit requirements while they are on duty. Also, city, parish or local municipal government employees assigned to animal control duties are exempt from permit requirements while on duty.

### D. Reporting Requirements

1. Nuisance Wildlife Complaint Forms must be kept by NWCO’s for a period of three (3) years. Report forms shall detail:

- a. Date the nuisance wildlife complaint was received
- b. Parish in which complaint originated
- c. Species of offending wildlife
- d. Action taken and disposition of offending wildlife

2. Report forms shall be available for inspection at all times by Wildlife Enforcement Agents or any other authorized representatives of the Department.

3. A summary of all nuisance wildlife control activity is to be submitted annually. The report shall include all control activity carried out during the effective dates of the permit and must include the following information:

- a. NWCO name, permit number, address and telephone number.
- b. The parish of activity and species of offending animal
- c. Total number of animals taken, listed by species.

Reports may be submitted as much as one month prior to the expiration date of the permit but no later than 10 days after the expiration date of the permit.

4. Any NWCO who does not submit his/her report by the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the



expiration date of the permit, or who submits a false report shall be issued a citation for violation of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission rules and regulations and, if convicted, will be considered to have forfeited said permit.

#### E. Procedures and Guidelines

1. The NWCO permit authorizes the holder to capture, euthanize or relocate designated species of wildlife by safe and effective means at any time of the year and without limits provided the operator is acting on a valid, documented wildlife complaint.

2. The following procedures and guidelines for NWCO permittees shall be in effect to establish what species of wildlife may be taken under the authority of this permit, the legal methods that may be used to control nuisance wildlife under the authority of this permit, and the legal methods of disposing of nuisance wildlife.

a. Only wildlife damage or nuisance complaints affecting humans and/or their property are considered valid complaints. Complaints involving conflicts between two or more species of wildlife are not valid nuisance wildlife complaints.

b. NWCO permittees are only authorized to live trap and relocate, live trap and euthanize or lethally trap the following species when such action is warranted by a valid nuisance wildlife complaint: armadillo, beaver, bobcat, coyote, feral hogs, fox, mink, mole, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel (including flying squirrel) and skunk. Nuisance birds, reptiles and amphibians may be controlled as provided by existing law. Bats may be controlled by exclusion or by capture and relocation only. Bats shall not be controlled by any lethal methods.

c. The NWCO permit does **NOT** authorize the capture and/or handling of white-tailed deer, bears, turkeys or alligators.

d. The sale, trade, barter, gifting or retention of any wildlife or part thereof taken under the authority of a NWCO permit is prohibited EXCEPT that furbearers taken during

the open trapping season may be sold as provided by law. Sick or injured wildlife may be delivered to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for rehabilitation purposes within 24 hours of capture

e. NWCO permittees must follow all state and federal laws, rules and regulations that apply to the taking of wildlife, with the exception of season dates and bag limits, except as otherwise provided in this section.

f. All wildlife taken under a NWCO permit shall be taken and disposed of in a manner to ensure safe and effective handling and/or euthanasia. Euthanasia of a captured animal is to be performed under the guidelines adopted by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

g. Traps or other capture devices set for live capture shall be checked a minimum of once every 24 hours and all animals removed. All traps and other capture devices shall be marked with permanent tags bearing the name, address and telephone number of the NWCO.

h. Only legal methods of take, as provided by existing law, shall be authorized under the NWCO permit. In addition to legal traps and snares, nets and capture by hand are authorized.

i. All traps and other capture devices shall be set in a manner that:

- i. will minimize the risk to non-target animals;
- ii. will minimize the risk to the public and to pets; and
- iii. is out of the view of the general public.

j. The NWCO permit does not authorize the use of firearms, EXCEPT that nutria, beaver, coyotes, armadillos and feral hogs where legal, may be taken as provided by existing law. Firearms may also be used in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical

Association (AVMA) guidelines on euthanasia. Discharge of any firearms shall be subject to all state, parish and municipal restrictions and ordinances.

k. When relocation is authorized, the NWCO may have the wildlife in possession for no more than 24 hours unless specifically authorized by the Department.

l. Wildlife that is relocated shall be released at least five (5) miles outside of any city limit and must be released within the state of Louisiana.

m. Wildlife shall not be released on private land without written permission of the landowner or landowner designee.

n. Wildlife shall not be released on public land without first obtaining written permission from the governmental entity owning or administering the release property.

o. Captured wildlife that appears to be sick or injured shall be turned over to a licensed rehabilitator or euthanized rather than be relocated. Burial or incineration of these carcasses is required.

p. Raccoons and skunks shall not be relocated and shall be euthanized, within 12 hours of capture, in accordance with the current American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines on euthanasia.